

Policy and Compliance (ODAPC). He served as the Department's representative on the White House COVID-19 Supply Chain Task Force and the White House Food Supply Chain Policy Coordinating Committee, where he helped shape the Federal response to the pandemic. He also led the Department's efforts to create the National Freight Strategic Plan to guide strategic Federal initiatives for multimodal investments to reduce congestion and improve intermodal connectivity.

In 2020, Secretary Chao asked Wiley to lead FMCSA. As Acting Administrator of a Federal agency with a \$680 million budget and nearly 1200 employees, Wiley led the implementation efforts on two significant regulatory reform efforts: Hours of Service and the Definition of Agricultural Commodities, two issues which are of vital importance to my Congressional District. More importantly, however, he diligently worked with Congress to secure \$30 million in Federal funding for a new Large Truck Crash Causal Factors Study. The last comprehensive large truck crash causation study provided the DOT, and safety research community, valuable insight into the factors which contribute to crashes involving at least one commercial motor vehicle, but the data was collected nearly 20 years ago. A new updated study—one that accounts for the changes in technology, vehicle safety, driver behavior and roadway design over the last two decades—is sorely needed and will serve as Wiley's lasting legacy in the Department.

Prior to transitioning to DOT, Wiley served for 22 years on the staff of my friend and the former Chairman of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Congressman John L. Mica of Florida, the last six as his Chief of Staff. He is also a proud graduate of the University of Central Florida, although I would remind the Speaker that the last time UCF played my alma mater, Virginia Tech, in football was August 31, 2003, and Virginia Tech won 49–28.

Wiley, his wife, Elizabeth, and their two children, Emilia and Enslie, live in Stafford, VA.

Madam Speaker, I am thankful for Wiley's leadership, dedication to public service throughout his 26-year career in the Federal government and his work on issues of vital importance to the economic vibrance of our great nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BIKESHARE TRANSIT ACT OF 2021

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Bikeshare Transit Act of 2021. This legislation passed the House last session in Sections 1210 and 2102 of the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2, 116th Cong.) and would make bikeshare systems eligible to receive funding to enhance related public transportation service or transit facilities.

America is in the middle of a bikeshare revolution: at least 119 communities have bikeshare systems, supporting a network of more than 100,000 bikes. In 2019, riders took 50 million trips on bikeshare systems, and the number of trips and systems has grown every year since 2010. The COVID-19 pandemic

has further increased demand for bicycles and bikeshare systems as people seek transportation options. Systems are operating in communities of all sizes from Los Angeles and Portland to Topeka and Conway, Arkansas.

While some existing bikeshare programs received federal dollars to develop their systems, the lack of an established source of federal financial support has proved an impediment to many other projects. Since the term "bikeshare" is not included in federal law or described as a form of transit, bikeshare systems and departments of transportation are forced to operate in a gray area, creating challenges for funding and maintaining bikeshare systems.

This legislation makes bikeshare systems eligible to receive funding to enhance related public transportation service or transit facilities. Federal funding can be used for acquiring or replacing bikeshare-related equipment and constructing bikeshare facilities. Bikeshare systems will also be listed as eligible projects under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program. The Bikeshare Transit Act will remove significant barriers facing new and existing bikeshare projects applying for federal funding while underscoring that bikeshare programs drive economic development and are an important part of bringing choice and adding value to America's transportation system.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to include this legislation in a long-term surface transportation reauthorization package.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, on July 20, 2020 I missed recorded vote No. 142 due to travel delays. Had I been present I would have voted YEA (Passage of H.R. 6395).

HONORING THE LATE LOUIS AYALA

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Louis Ayala, a beloved member of our north Fort Worth community, who died of COVID-19 and pneumonia last week. Mr. Ayala was known for his dedication to the barber shop industry and was honored by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation last year as the oldest active barber in Texas.

At the age of 14, while still in middle school, Louis learned how to cut hair. Years later, he opened Ayala's Barber Shop on North Main Street in the same neighborhood where he grew up and where our community went for decades to get a good haircut. Since 1945, Louis Ayala has kept our community happy and looking sharp. Louis Ayala's hard work and spirit is an outstanding example of Amer-

ican ingenuity and perseverance. His commitment to his small business and community must be commended and remembered.

THANK YOU SECRETARY ROBERT WILKIE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I appreciate Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Robert Wilkie for his service to our country. Last Thursday, the VA shared a review by Secretary Wilkie, discussing recent accomplishments. Wilkie writes that,

"... over the last few years, VA was reborn. Today our approval rating stands at about 90 percent for health care, and among our fastest growing population—women—we have an 86 percent approval rating.

"Recent studies show VA measures up to the private sector on access and quality. Veterans liked what they saw and started voting with their feet. VA completed a record number of appointments in fiscal year 2019—59 million—the same year the MISSION Act took effect. The more Veterans we served, the more Veterans trusted us. Trust in VA care hit a record high in April 2020.

"VA achieved what all the experts in Washington said was impossible by rolling out a modernized health record that will make it easier than ever for health professionals to access Veterans' medical history."

CELEBRATING THE INDEPENDENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Independence Chamber of Commerce on one hundred years of support and advocacy for local businesses across Independence, Missouri. For an entire century, the Independence Chamber of Commerce has nurtured the entrepreneurial spirit that serves as the economic backbone of my district.

President Harry Truman, born and raised in Independence, emphatically believed that "America was built on courage, on imagination, and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand." For one hundred years, the Independence Chamber of Commerce has given local business leaders the tools to be courageous and imaginative, along with the determination necessary to succeed. The Chamber represents over five hundred businesses in Independence, each doing their part to make a difference in the lives of their friends and neighbors. Every year, the Chamber's incredible staff and Board of Directors organize nearly two hundred events, from roundtable discussions with burgeoning business leaders, to seminars with professionals on how to grow new enterprises. These business-centered events bolster the economic